REVENUE--(EXCISE).

(*No. 13.*)

SUBJECT NO. 13.

Half the tree-tax to be paid to owners of date trees.

Messrs. Siddagangappa, Doraswami Iyengar and Venkatasamaiya, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Messrs. Siddagangappa and Doraswami Iyengar.—At present the tree-tax recovered from Ramasamudra Municipality in respect of date trees situated on occupied lands is credited to Government entirely. It is only through the care of the owner of the lands that these trees have grown to yield some revenue to the State. If the owner had been careless, or cut the trees down, Government would not reap the benefit they are deriving now.

Further, the owners of lands in which these trees grow, are held responsible for the tree-tax whenever the contractors fail to pay the tax to Government. In most cases, the contractor is responsible for the killing of trees by overtapping. While the poor raiyat will have no benefit from the trees which are in his land and for the protection of which he takes great care, the contractor and Government are benefited. The *hiduvalidars* may therefore be given a portion of the tax so that Government interests may be better safeguarded by them.

First Member of Council.—The juice in the tree is the monopoly of Government. Therefore the tax should go to Government. The owner has no right to it.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao said that this was very unjust and pleaded on behalf of the *hiduvalidars.* He added that if *hiduvalidars* are given some encouragement for preserving the trees, the revenue will increase.

Mr. Venkatasamaiya.—If the contractor does not pay tax, the owner of the land is made responsible for the same.

Dewan.—The question of responsibility will be investigated and considered.

REVENUE—(INCOME-TAX).

(*Nos. 14 to 16.*)

SUBJECT NO. 14.

Reduction of Income-tax imposed on Joint Stock Companies.

Messrs. Kanni Settappa and D. Venkatarayappa, Chikballapur Taluk.

Mr. Kanni Settappa.—It is very hard that Joint Stock Companies have to pay Income-tax on their income at one anna in the rupee while persons are taxed according to a graduated scale. The Government under the present financial stringency refuse to lend money to raiyats and the help they were receiving from Government has ceased. These companies help the poor people to a great extent. During the Birthday Session of 1921, the subject was discussed and it was hoped that something would be done to reduce this abnormally high rate. The rate may be reduced so as to encourage industries.

Dewan.—Will be considered in connection with the amendment of the Regulation which will be taken up shortly.

SUBJECT NO. 15.

Extension of the period for the payment of Income-tax.

Mr. A. Srikantappa, Dodballapur Municipality.

Mr. A. Srikantappa.—The present system of recovering the Income-tax in two instalments has been causing a lot of trouble to poor people. This is a great hardship for business men who have to meet several demands. The land revenue is recovered in four instalments to ease the raiyat and it cannot be understood why the same concession should not apply to the merchant class also.